National Programme for rejuvenating traditional water resources

1794. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rural Development Ministry decided to begin a National Programme to rejuvenate traditional water resources;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the steps Government have so far taken or propose to take to revive water resources;

(d) whether Union Government is seriously considering to bring any legislation to regulate the use of ground water in view of over-exploitation in the country; and

(e) if so, details thereof and when it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) Rejuvenation, including desilation of traditional water resources like village ponds / tanks, is proposed to be taken up as one-time exercise under the Watershed Development Programmes and other Schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(d) and (e) A Model Bill to regulate use of ground water was circulated to the States in 1970 by Ministry of Water Resources for making necessary legislation. Later, the Bill was revised and circulated to the States again in 1992. The Bill was again revised and circulated to the States in June 1996. The State Government of Gujarat has enacted legislation. Tamil Nadu has passed Metropolitan Area Ground Water Regulation Act. The State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh have passed regulation for drinking water purposes. West Bengal and Karnataka have also passed Bills for water resources conservation, protection and development.

Two-tier Panchayati Raj

1795. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand of the Tamil Nadu Government to have a two-tier Panchayati Raj System and to have provision for direct election to the post of Chairman of Block Panchayats;

(b) whether Government will amend Article 243B and 243C of the Constitution to give effect to this demand; and

(c) if so, when the amendment is likely to be brought?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Since the three-tier Panchayati Raj System and existing mode of elections of Chairpersons at Intermediate Panchayat level were adopted after a nation-wise debate following much deliberation and discussion in Parliament, it was decided not to give effect to such demands. However, the Constitution (87th Amendment) Bill, 1999 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 1999 to amend certain provision of Article 243C. It was decided in the Meeting of Leaders of all Parties in Parliament held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister on 19th May, 2001 that the Bill should be deferred and studied further in the wider context of Panchayati Raj in the country. The Standing Committee of Urban and Rural Development has been examining implementation of various provisions of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992.

Revival of Woollen Mills under BIC, Kanpur

1796. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question Number 256 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th August, 2001 regarding revival of Textile Mills under BIC, Kanpur and state:

(a) what decision was taken by the BIFR on the submission made by the Government before it expressing Government's intention to revive the Woollen Mills under BIC Limited; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to revive Woollen Mills under BIC Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) In the hearing held on 13.6.2001, BIFR appointed IDBI as the Operating Agency (OA) for preparation of revival scheme for the British India Corporation (Woollen Mills) and submission of the final report by 31.12.2001. This Ministry is pursuing with IDBI for timely finalization and submission of the report to BIFR.